

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EA-06

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /061 W

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R 301240Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8401

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: ALLEGED CLARIFICATION RE "THREAT FROM THE SEA"

REF: STATE 098176

1. THE PRESS REPORTS AND, WHERE AVAILABLE, TEXTS OF PRIME MINISTER'S, FOREIGN MINISTER'S AND DEFENSE MINISTER'S STATEMENTS PROVIDE NO RECORD OF A "CLARIFICATION" THAT PAKISTAN IS THE SOURCE OF THE THREAT FROM THE SEA.

2. THE PRESS STORIES OF MRS. GANDHI'S INITIAL REFERENCES TO THE THREAT FROM THE SEA REPORTED THAT SHE DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN "AGGRESSION FROM THE NORTH," WHICH IN THE CONTEXT WOULD INCLUDE BOTH CHINA AND PAKISTAN, AND THREAT FROM THE SEA (APRIL 13, ADDRESSING FREEDOM-FIGHTERS IN NEW DELHI). "MAYBE, IF INDIAN WERE AGAIN ATTACKED FROM THE NORTH, OTHERS MAY COME TO HELP THE AGGRESSOR FROM THE SEA," SHE SAID, ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL HERALD. ON APRIL 15, WHEN ASKED IN JAMMU ABOUT WHICH SEA POWER SHE HAD IN MIND, SHE REPORTEDLY SAID, "I THINK IT IS OBVIOUS AS TO WHICH SEA POWER I MEANT. THAT IS FOR YOU TO MAKE OUT." AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME (APRIL 12), SWARAN SINGH REPORTEDLY TOLD THE ISCUS CONFERENCE IN LUCKNOW THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND INDIAN WOULD JOINTLY FACE "ANY ATTEMPT BY AMERICANS TO

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DISTURB PEACE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA."

3. WE HAVE REPORTED SWARAN SINGH'S STATEMENTS WINDING UP THE DEFENSE BUDGET DEBATES IN BOTH THE LOWER AND UPPER HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT ON APRIL 21 AND 28 RESPECTIVELY (NEW DELHI FROM PAKISTAN (WITHOUT MENTIONING ANY PAKISTANI NAVAL THREAT), THEN MENTIONED THE THREAT FROM CHINA, AND FINALLY TOUCHED ON THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD INDIA'S LONG COASTLINE, WITHOUT MENTIONING FROM WHOM. AS WE REPORTED, FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE INDIAN OCEAN OR ANY SEAWARD THREAT IN HIS WRAPUP OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE IN THE LOK SABHA APRIL 16.

4. WE HAVE RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE "THREAT FROM THE SEA" WITH A NUMBER OF POLITICIANS AND OFFICIALS AND NONE HAVE THEMSELVES THOUGH MRS GANDHI WAS TALKING ABOUT PAKISTAN. MOST RECENTLY POLCOUNSELOR ASKED MEA PRESS SPOKESMAN HAKSAR ABOUT THIS AND HAKSAR OBSERVED THAT "OF COURSE" HE RECOGNIZED THAT MOST OBSERVERS THOUGHT OF THE THREAT AS MEANING THE US.

5. YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK GONSALVES WHERE HE CAME ACROSS ANY IDENTIFICATION OF PAKISTAN AS THE THREAT.

SAXBE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 30 APR 1975  
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